

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

May 2015

Happy Memorial Day!!



The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter

President's Message

By Bob Dreyer

I am sitting here enjoying the light rain and going over my notes from yesterday's meeting of the Board of Directors. We have a lot going on at CSCMVA which shows that we are an active organization committed to our stated purpose and objective of promoting the educational and interpretive activities of the California State Capitol Museum.

With only around 60 "active" members this means it's "all hands on deck" all the time. So many of our members are multi-tasking that I've arranged for pay increases for all our volunteers (perhaps performance bonuses are in the future). While I say this tongue in cheek, I still observe that it's the same members who make themselves available to help when help is needed.

I encourage all of us to do a mental check and ask "when was the last time I worked with visitors at the Capitol?" We all spent many hours learning to tell visitors about the historic rooms and the history of the building. We have stayed up-to-date on where things are in the building, so that we can direct visitors to where they need to go...but when was the last time you took a three or four hour shift?

All members of CSCMVA are welcome at any time in the Capitol. There is always something to do. We recently opened the North Information Desk directly inside the North entrance to the building, and volunteers are needed to staff that venue (the key is in the key box on the volunteer desk). If you need an orientation on working the North entrance just ask and someone will be assigned to mentor you. There is a great need for volunteers on Sundays. I know Sundays are busy for most all of us, but there may be some who could put in a few hours on that day.

The new exhibit on the World War II will be opening later this month, and training has been announced. Do take the training and make yourself available to assist with the exhibit. It's an opportunity for you to be at the Capitol, mingle with the visitors, and visit with other CSCMVA members.

The training class for new volunteers will be starting before we know it, so sharpen up your mentoring skills and be prepared to welcome and teach some new folks.

Thanks to everyone who participated in Earthquake Day (both in front of and behind the scenes). It was a fun day and we

have received lots of positive comments from both visitors and staff. Thanks also to all of you who work behind the scenes every month: The bookstore, the costume closet, finances, publishing, special events, living history events, and on and on... to keep CSCMVA running (sometimes just chugging) along. You are the silent heroes of CSCMVA. Thanks for all you do.

~ **Bob**

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the **Clarion**, cards has been sent to the following individuals:

Joan Landry Lasak – Condolences on the death of her husband at Easter time

Diane Rich --- Best wishes for recovery from the flu

Anne Adrian—Get well wishes for recovery from pneumonia

Please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425-1909.



Christmas Ornament Workshops: May 18 and 19

You've heard of Christmas in July... well, CSCMVA volunteers have taken it a step further. Under the leadership of **Marylin Thompson** and **Jan Forbes**, volunteers are invited to two days of assembling Christmas ornaments for a bountiful Victorian Christmas at the Capitol. The workshops will be held in the **Stanford Gallery** (Old Sacramento) on Monday and Tuesday, **May 18 and 19** commencing at **10:00 AM**. In order to help Jan and Marylin prepare for these workshops, please contact either Marylin at thompsona.m@sbcglobal.net (530-666-3748) or Jan at janForbes@comcast.net (916-773-1644) to reserve a place.

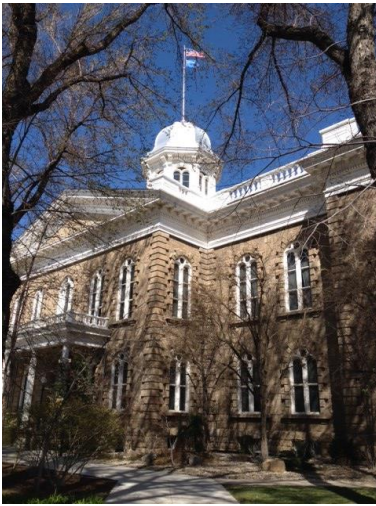
New Member Class:

Do you know of someone who would make a great addition to CSCMVA and who would enjoy the benefits we do: an opportunity to provide interpretation of our beautiful CA State Capitol, meaningful public contact, comradery of fellow Capitol enthusiasts and the opportunity to participate in living history events? If so, suggest that they apply for the **new member class to occur in July / August**. The application is available online by "googling" **CA State Parks Volunteer**. The completed application can either be returned to Rachel at Rachel.martinez@parks.ca.gov or mailed via USPS to Rachel Martinez, California State Capitol Museum, Room B-27, 1315 10th St., Sacramento, CA 95814. If a printed application is desired, Rachel has them at her desk. Please encourage new members to apply. There are plenty of opportunities for meaningful engagement!

Special Feature: the Nevada State Capitol

By Marti Dennis

(Editor's Note: This feature is another in our series describing state capitols. CSCMVA members are encouraged to share information and photos of their visits to other state capitols. To allow for adequate space and to avoid duplication of previous reports, please be sure to contact Marti Dennis at mdennis1@att.net prior to submission.)



Nevada State Capitol

In the middle of a dusty, sometimes muddy, 10 acres (equivalent to four city blocks) of land, Adam Curry, the founder of Carson City, Nevada, chose to build the Nevada State Capitol. Mark Twain described the site in 1861 as “a large, unfenced, level vacancy, with a liberty pole in it, and a very useful place for public auctions, horse trades, mass meetings and likewise for teamsters to camp in.” Nevada passed from a territory to statehood in four short years (1861 – 1864), and in 1869 the “act to provide for the erection of a State Capitol” on this very land was passed by the Nevada Legislature and signed into law by Governor Henry G. Blasdel in 1869. \$10,000 was authorized for construction, and the legislature accepted the lowest bid. To reduce the expense of the building, sandstone was obtained free of charge from the Nevada State Prison quarry located just outside of Carson City. Nevertheless, the final construction costs exceeded \$170,000 which was higher than the highest bid.

The building has window glass panes made of 26 oz. French crystal, with floors and wainscoting of Alaskan marble, shipped to San Francisco in 20 ton blocks. The first floor contained a major office at each corner, while the wings of the second floor were designed for the two legislative chambers. The Silver dome is Carson City's most visible landmark and serves as the symbol of Nevada's state government.



Like California, the Nevada State Capitol, (the second oldest capitol building west of the Mississippi) was ready for some expansion in 1906, and an octagonal Annex was added to the rear of the Capitol building to house the State Library. Sometime shortly thereafter the legislature was relocated to new legislative wing annexes. The compatible wings were constructed of stone from the same quarry as the original capitol building. The state Supreme Court was the last branch of government to relocate when it moved in 1937 to an adjacent building, and the Legislature moved again in 1971 when it was relocated to a new Legislative Building. All Nevada governors, except Governor Blasdel, have had an office in the original state capitol building. With the relocation of the Library, the Supreme Court, and ultimately the Legislature, to new sites, the second floor of the historic building has been devoted to museum space. Included in the artifacts in the museum is the elk horn chair of Nevada Governor John Sparks, the honorary chair used by President Teddy Roosevelt when he was welcomed to the capitol as the Hero of San Juan in 1903.

Nevada celebrated its statehood centennial in 1964 with a massive birthday cake seven feet long and three feet wide! The First Lady was assisted in her cake cutting duties by none other than the comedian Jack Benny.

(Sources: Nevada State Capitol Building Sierra Nevada Geotourism MapGuide, Nevada State Capitol Wikipedia.)

Upcoming Training Opportunities:

Sunday, May 17 at 1:30 PM: California State Parks Interpreter III and Capital District Volunteer Coordinator Phil Sexton will be doing a presentation on **the art of interpretation**. This program is specially designed to help you connect with the visitors and make your tours relevant, accurate, accessible, enjoyable, organized, memorable and thematic. Phil is a great speaker and a leader in the National Association for Interpretation. Location is **State Capitol building Room 126**.

Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 PM: A training session for the Museum's new exhibit "Call to Action: **California's Role in WW II**. Location is the **Capitol Theater**.

Sunday, July 19 at 1:30 PM: Noted local historian and author William Burg will be doing a talk on Albert Gallatin's **Victorian Sacramento**. William has researched Albert Gallatin and will share his greater role in the streetcar system and other civic projects. William works for the Office of Historic Preservation and has served as President of The Sacramento Old City Association aka Preservation Sacramento. Location is **State Capitol building Room 126**.

Volunteer Spotlight:

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

(Editor's note: This popular feature will not appear this month. Scotty Hodges has been busy organizing and executing a very successful Earthquake Day. This feature will be returning in the June 2015 issue.)

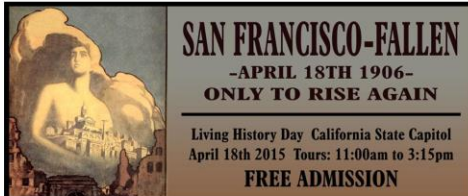
Earthquake Day: April 18

Our living history event commemorating the events in Sacramento following the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake was a huge success! Thanks to the leadership of Scotty Hedges, David Keck and Alex King, along with Connie Clark as Director, we successfully educated (and even entertained) 177 attendees on 14 different tours. There were many talented actors and actresses who were supported by activities of the Costume Closet and Hospitality committees. Karen Pearl and her husband were on hand with a fascinating display of family and other artifacts from the earthquake; Mary Geach and Sheri Routh staffed the Book table to acquaint our visitors with the literary treasures available in the Bookstore; while Patty Wood assisted with the set up of the Children's Table and directions on how to transform orange tissue paper and green pipe cleaners into pretty California poppies. Even two visiting guide-dogs-in training were carrying around those colorful reminders of our state flower. Wasn't Macey Small (granddaughter of Connie Clark) cute as our Newsboy, selling newspaper coverage of the earthquake? Lou Below served as photographer, and we have him to thank for the two pages of EQ photos that Rachel arranged into collages. And, we want to be sure to thank Rachel for her effort in securing the rooms and managing the set up and take down of the tables and placement of props that were essential to provide for the success of this event.

Scotty, Alex and David want to extend their sincerest appreciation to each volunteer, and a couple of Parks staff, who gave of their time to make this an educational and memorable event.



1906 EARTHQUAKE DAY
~~LIVING HISTORY EVENT~~
April 18, 2015



Minutes of the CSCMVA Board May 6, 2015

By Marylin Thompson, Secretary

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in room 127 of the Capitol by **President Bob Dreyer**.

Minutes were approved as distributed.

Bookstore Report: **Mary Geach** reported net income for April was \$4,170 - \$109 more than April 2014. The coloring books are selling well as is everything else. The PPIE posters have almost sold out. Is there a chance to have some for the new WW II exhibit?

Treasurer's Report: **Bob Dennis** reported total net receipts for the month were \$2,363. Expenses for last month were \$2,177, inclusive of Earthquake Day expenses. Therefore net revenue was \$185 which is in line with budget projections. Year to date we are still \$4,400 ahead of our budget projections, partially as a result of membership dues received. Discussion ensued about how to reinvest CD funds that have matured.

2015 Board of Directors



Front Row: Marylin Thompson, PJ Jones, Bob Dreyer, Bob Dennis

Back Row : Connie Clark, Alex King, Julie Mallett, Chris Tyler, David Keck

State Parks Report: **Rachel Martinez** once again made a plea for volunteers on the weekends and for the North Information

Desk. Request was made for a room directory that includes non-public areas such as the Mail Room. Two new guide trainees, Joel and Rubin, have been hired. The new WWII exhibit will open at the end of May. Two trainings are offered: May 13 or 28. There will be a laminated information sheet for each exhibit room.

Matt Bellah displayed a WWII poster which can be sold since there are no copyright issues. The exhibit "soft" opening will occur on May 23, and it will continue until the last week of April 2016. A lot of the images and information will be on the State Parks website.

Koren Benoit noted that we have exhausted the supply of the Visitor guide / map, and before reprinting it needs to be updated. We annually distribute approximately 40,000 of the adult Visitor guides, 35,000 of the "Kid's Guide", and 20,000 of the Park Guide. Koren displayed a sample of a new Guide which could be produced on less expensive paper using non custom colors. A discussion followed as to the usefulness of each guide and possible changes to each. Additional discussion followed on the usefulness of each guide, possible changes to each and whether or not CSCMVA would be willing to fund some of the attendant costs of reprinting.

It was not possible to finish the meeting agenda as another group was scheduled to use the room at 2:00. Thus, the meeting was adjourned and will be continued at another meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 PM. The minutes of that additional meeting for May will be included in the June Clarion.

A continuation of the May 6 Board Meeting will be Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 PM.

**The June Board meeting will be Wednesday, June 3 at 1:00 PM.
All members are encouraged to attend.**

Upcoming Events:

Christmas Ornament Workshops:	Monday & Tuesday, May 18 and 19 Stanford Gallery (Old Sacramento)
Board of Director's Mtg. (continued):	Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 PM Stanford Mansion Conference Room
Training:	
The Art of Interpretation	Sunday, May 17 at 1:30 PM Room 126
California's Role in WW II	Thursday, May 28 at 2:00 PM Capitol Theater
Board of Directors Mtg.:	Wednesday, June 3
Training:	
Victorian Sacramento	Sunday, July 19 at 1:30 Room 126
River Cats Game:	Wednesday, July 29
New Members Class:	July / August 2015
Admissions Day:	Wednesday, September 9
Womens' Suffrage Day:	Saturday, October 17
Holiday Music Program:	December 1 - 23

To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319
Rachel Martinez

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving,

Christmas and New Year's Day